



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**AFGHANISTAN**

OAPA - 16-FCB-Afg-0014

**Office of Afghanistan & Pakistan Affairs (OAPA)**

**REQUEST FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION**

**PROGRAM/ACTIVITY DATA**

**Country Code:** 306  
**Program Area:** Anti-Corruption  
**Assistance Objective:** DO 3  
**Intermediate Results:** IR 3.2  
**Country or Region:** Afghanistan  
**Activity Name:** Agreement on Delegated Cooperation between DFID (lead donor) and USAID (co-donor) regarding supplementary support to the Afghanistan Independent Joint Anti-corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (MEC)  
**Funding Period:** May 2015 to May 2020  
**Life of Project (LOP) Amount:** \$3,000,000  
**IEE Prepared by:** Miranda Jolicoeur  
**Date:** 02/08/2016  
**IEE Amendment (Y/N):** N

**ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION RECOMMENDED:** (place X where appropriate)

Categorical Exclusion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deferral	<input type="checkbox"/>
Positive Determination	<input type="checkbox"/>	Negative Determination	<input type="checkbox"/>
Negative Determination With Conditions	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exemption	<input type="checkbox"/>

**1.0 PURPOSE, BACKGROUND AND ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION**

**1.1. Purpose and Background**

The purpose of this RCE, in accordance with 22 CFR 216, is to provide the first review of reasonably foreseeable effects on the environment, as well as the recommended Threshold Decision for the Delegated Cooperation (DCAR) Between the U.K. Department for International Development (DFID) (lead donor) and USAID (co-donor with DANIDA) regarding supplementary support to the Afghanistan Independent Joint Anti-corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (MEC). The originator proposes, based on 22 CFR 216.2 (c)(1)(ii), that USAID's funding to DFID for the MEC be categorically excluded from USAID's requirement to conduct an initial environmental examination, environmental assessment, or environmental impact statement.

DFID is committed to ensuring compliance with the Afghanistan Government of National Unity (GNU) environmental and related legislation, GNU's obligations under ratified international environmental and related agreements and conventions, and with DFID's own policies and procedures available at:

[https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/methodology-dfid-guide-to-environmental-screening-200306\\_en\\_2.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/methodology-dfid-guide-to-environmental-screening-200306_en_2.pdf)

DFID creates environmental screening notes on each of their projects, similar to USAID's Initial Environmental Examination (IEE). DFID will provide USAID with progress reports documenting environmental and social compliance related to the MEC.

The USAID/Afghanistan Mission Director approved the Action Memo dated May 4, 2015 to approve funding for the DCAR with DFID to fund the MEC. The USAID Mission Director and DFID Director signed the DCAR on May 19, 2015. At that time, the Action Memorandum stated that the MEC activities fell under RCE OAPA-14-JUN-AFG-0046 for Support for Afghanistan's Fight Against Corruption (SAFAC). This memorandum was cleared by the Bureau Environmental Officer (BEO) on June 10, 2014.

## **1.2. Background and Activity Description**

This activity aims to enable the MEC to continue serving as a watchdog on government corruption through activities aimed at identifying vulnerabilities to corruption in select government agencies, providing practical and implementable recommendations to reduce corrupt practices, issuing reports on anti-corruption topics, and conducting public outreach and communications efforts.

This activity is relevant to and aligned with the policies and strategies of the GNU. The GNU and the international community formed the MEC after the London Conference in response to the need for additional accountability to reduce and prevent corruption in Afghanistan. DFID will provide financial support to the MEC to strengthen their systems and technical abilities. The objectives the DCAR to fund the MEC are compatible with the democracy and governance objectives of USAID/Afghanistan as specified in the Mission's Strategy for Transformation 2014-2024 (Development Objective 3 Performance and Legitimacy of GIROA Improved, Intermediate Result 3.2 Governance at National and Sub-national Level Strengthened).

The DCAR with DFID to support the MEC aims to achieve the following outputs:

- Develop appropriate benchmarks and undertake efforts to monitor them effectively;
- Develop and issue special reports on specific anti-corruption topics;
- Develop and implement a public communication strategy on the organization's goals and activities;
- Engage with local organizations on anti-corruption issues in provinces outside of Kabul; and
- Develop internal organizational policies that enhance its effectiveness.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDED THRESHOLD DECISIONS**

The DCAR activity is recommended for a Categorical Exclusion based on 22 CFR 216.2 (c)(1)(ii), because this is an activity for which *"A.I.D. does not have knowledge of or control over, and the objective of A.I.D. in furnishing assistance does not require, either prior to approval of financing or prior to implementation of specific activities, knowledge of or control over, the details of the specific activities that have an effect on the physical and natural environment for which financing is provided by A.I.D."*



In accordance with ADS 308.3.11(c), USAID will rely on DFID's environmental and social policies and procedures which are available at: [https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/methodology-dfid-guide-to-environmental-screening-200306\\_en\\_2.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/methodology-dfid-guide-to-environmental-screening-200306_en_2.pdf), its diligent planning and technical design, and its implementation of the approved environmental mitigation and monitoring measures. In case the implementation results and/or environmental and social compliance are found to be lacking or insufficient to satisfy USAID's environmental compliance policy codified in 22 CFR 216, further contributions to DFID may be halted.

### **3.0 REVISION**

Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.3(a)(9), if new information becomes available which indicates that activities to be funded by the project might be "major" and the project's effect "significant," or if additional activities are proposed that might be considered "major" and their effects significant, this RCE will be reviewed and revised by the originator of the project and submitted to the BEO/OAPA for approval and, if appropriate, an environmental assessment will be prepared. It is the responsibility of the USAID DCAR Activity Manager to keep the Mission Environmental Officer, USAID/Afghanistan, and the BEO/OAPA informed of any new information or changes in scope and nature of the activity that might require revision of the IEE.

## APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDED ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIONS

DCAR with DFID to support the MEC RCE

	Clearances:	Date:
ODG Office Director	<u>cleared in tracker</u> Walter Doetsch	<u>2/15/2016</u>
Mission Environmental Officer	<u>cleared by email</u> Harry Bottenberg	<u>02/11/2016</u>
Regional Environmental Advisor, Central & South Asia and OAPA	<u>cleared by email</u> Andrei Barannik	<u>02/12/2016</u>
Resident Legal Officer	<u>cleared in tracker</u> Brandon Edward Miller	<u>2/18/2016</u>
Acting Deputy Mission Director	<u>HCH</u> Haven Cruz-Hubbard	<u>02/21/16</u>
Mission Director	<u>[Signature]</u> Herbert Smith	<u>02/26/16</u>
	Approval:	Date:
Acting Bureau Environmental Officer for Afghanistan & BEO/ Asia	<u>[Signature]</u> John Wilson	<u>2/22/16</u>

DISTRIBUTION: ODG, MEO, COR/AOR, OAA, RLO



Mohammad Mustafa Sultani &lt;msultani@usaid.gov&gt;

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**Re: Draft IEE for MEC DCAR with DFID**

1 message

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**Harry Bottenberg** <hbottenberg@usaid.gov>

Thu, Feb 11, 2016 at 6:58 PM

To: Andrei Barannik &lt;abarannik@usaid.gov&gt;

Cc: Mohammad Mustafa Sultani &lt;msultani@usaid.gov&gt;, Miranda Jolicoeur &lt;mjolicoeur@usaid.gov&gt;

Hi Andrei, I clear this RCE for the DCAR MEC activity drafted by Miranda of the DG office. Can you pls review? Once you are OK, Mustafa will load this up in the mission tracker and start the mission clearance process.

harry

On Thu, Feb 11, 2016 at 2:18 AM, Miranda Jolicoeur <mjolicoeur@usaid.gov> wrote:

Hi Harry,

Please find my responses to your questions and additions to the document.

Best,  
Miranda

On Wed, Feb 10, 2016 at 8:19 PM, Harry Bottenberg <hbottenberg@usaid.gov> wrote:

Thanks, Miranda. Good job. Some minor edits and comments/questions, see attached.

On Wed, Feb 10, 2016 at 8:33 AM, Miranda Jolicoeur <mjolicoeur@usaid.gov> wrote:

Hi Harry,

Please find the revised RCE for the DCAR with DFID to support the MEC based on the example you provided for UN Habitat. Thanks!

Best,  
Miranda

On Mon, Feb 8, 2016 at 10:31 PM, Harry Bottenberg <hbottenberg@usaid.gov> wrote:

Ok, thanks, Miranda, then just do the RCE according to the sample I sent you we are doing with UN Habitat. That's the easiest, just a few pages. If you can google DFID's environmental procedures that will help, or if someone from DFID can send you that's fine too. Otherwise, I can find them too.

harry

On Mon, Feb 8, 2016 at 12:29 PM, Miranda Jolicoeur <mjolicoeur@usaid.gov> wrote:

Hi Harry,

Thanks as always for the quick response. Basically, this is a "purpose achieved upon disbursement" like the ones you describe. We are following their procedures. We are putting in \$500,000 now and we review with DFID and decide at points whether to continue disbursements based on results, but yes we follow their M&E, auditing, etc.

Thanks!  
Miranda

On Feb 8, 2016, at 9:46 PM, Harry Bottenberg <hbottenberg@usaid.gov> wrote:





Mohammad Mustafa Sultani &lt;msultani@usaid.gov&gt;

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**Re: Draft IEE for MEC DCAR with DFID**

1 message

Andrei Barannik &lt;abarannik@usaid.gov&gt;

Fri, Feb 12, 2016 at 8:25 AM

To: Harry Bottenberg &lt;hbottenberg@usaid.gov&gt;

Cc: Mohammad Mustafa Sultani &lt;msultani@usaid.gov&gt;, Miranda Jolicoeur &lt;mjolicoeur@usaid.gov&gt;

Harry - reviewed - looks OK - pls have the RCE duly signed in the Mission, put "concurring by e-mail" on REA line and send it to John Wilson, Acting BEO/AFG & BEO/ME (cced Erin Laws and Megan Strembitsky) for his review and approval. W/R from Islamabad, Andrei P.S. It may be a good idea that you meet with DFID environmental person when in Kabul

On 11 February 2016 at 19:28, Harry Bottenberg <hbottenberg@usaid.gov> wrote:

Hi Andrei, I clear this RCE for the DCAR MEC activity drafted by Miranda of the DG office. Can you pls review? Once you are OK, Mustafa will load this up in the mission tracker and start the mission clearance process.

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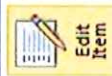
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Workflows

Manage

Actions

Kabul Phone Directory

Executive Office

Management Office

Sections

Regions

Supported Agencies

Communities

Domestic Travel

## Libraries

Templates

Guidance

Biography

## Lists

TTClearancePage

USAID Task Tracker

TT Clearance Page

Tasks

TT Clearance Page

Tasks 1

## Discussions

Team Discussion

## RLA

All Site Content

Title Agreement on Delegated Cooperation Between DFID (lead donor) and USAID (co-donor) regarding supplementary support to the Afghanistan Independent Joint Anti-corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (MEC)

Date Tasked 2/17/2016

Due Date 2/22/2016 12:00 AM

Status Submitted to DMD for Clearance

Priority Normal

Assigned Section/Office

Assigned POC/Drafter

Assigned POC/Drafters old

Clearing Section/Office

Clearing POC

With Input From Cruz-Hubbard, Haven

Final Destination

Paper Type OAPA

Status/Comments

Sultani, Mohammad Mustafa (2/22/2016 8:27 AM): Could you please review and clear MEC RCE.  
Sultani, Mohammad Mustafa (2/17/2016 10:41 AM): Hello Haven, could you please review and clear MEC RCE.  
Miller, Brandon (2/16/2016 5:25 PM): RLO clears with edits  
Sultani, Mohammad Mustafa (2/15/2016 4:22 PM): Hello Brandon, Could you please review and clear MEC RCE.  
Doetsch, Walter L (Kabul) (2/15/2016 1:02 PM): Cleared, returned. WLD 02152016  
Sultani, Mohammad Mustafa (2/15/2016 9:18 AM): Could you please review and clear MEC RCE.

Date Completed 2/25/2016

Task Year 2016

Date Due 22/02/2016

Tasked Date 17/02/2016

Attachments

Andrei's clearance for MEC DCAR with DFID.pdf  
Harry's clearance for MEC DCAR with DFID.pdf  
USAID Afghanistan IEE MEC DCAR.docx

Content Type: Item

Version: 14.0

Created at 2/15/2016 9:18 AM by Sultani, Mohammad Mustafa

Last modified at 2/22/2016 8:27 AM by Sultani, Mohammad Mustafa

Close